MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 APRIL 1987

Palestinian Talks

Palestinian talks are continuing in Algiers, and according to sources cited by *The Jordan Times*, Syria has proposed that it will back reunification efforts under certain conditions. The paper revealed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad met with former PNC speaker Khalid al-Fahum and expressed willingness to receive a PLO delegation representing all factions if all factions endorse an agreement signed by six groups in Tripoli last month. The proposal also includes an invitation to all PLO factions to visit Damascus and meet with Al-Asad before the upcoming PNC session, the paper added. If all factions endorsed the Tripoli document, the sources said "everybody without exception" would be welcomed to Damascus, the paper reported, pointing out that this indicates Syria may be willing to reconsider its opposition to Yasir 'Arafat. According to *Al-Dustur*, there is a "strong possibility" Syria will participate in the PNC meeting following mediation by Algeria, Libya, and the PDRY.

Fatah sources told the paper "the movement could not fully endorse the Tripoli document" because it nullifies the 17th PNC session and severs all PLO contacts with Egypt. The Jordan Times noted that Palestinian factions are divided on the Syrian proposal

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian troops and fighters from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan launched the "Fath-5" guerrilla offensive, codenamed "the Lord of the Era," Tehran radio announced, noting that two Iraqi bases in the Al-Sulaymaniyah region were destroyed.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni ruled out a Ramadan cease-fire in the Gulf war in a recorded speech carried by Tehran radio. Khomeyni stressed that Iran should not give respite to the enemy, which would allow it time to rearm and prepare for an attack. The imam also urged citizens to unite to overcome conspiracies that aim to create dissension.

Lebanon

Syrian Deployment — About 120 Syrian troops deployed along the coastal road between Khaldah and Al-Awwali alongside Lebanese Army troops already in position, Beirut Voice of National Resistance radio reported, adding that 25 soldiers stationed themselves at the northern entrance to Sidon. According to Jerusalem radio, defense sources say that while the IDF is following events in the south, these Syrian moves "have no significance as far as Israel is concerned."

Security — Unidentified gunmen assassinated a Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) official in West Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. Gunmen also seriously wounded another SSNP official and a number of his aides in the western Al-Biqa'. Israeli aircraft flew over Beirut on 15 April, the radio also noted.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interview — In an interview carried by JANA, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said he expects relations with the United States to improve after President Reagan's term, and urged the United States to find a means of reaching an understanding with Libya other than confrontation, which has failed in the past. Speaking about Chad, the Libyan leader said he is prepared to meet with former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei, and reasserted ownership of the Aozou strip. On the Iran-Iraq war, Al-Qadhdhafi confirmed he is trying to mediate between the two countries, but not through direct contacts. Al-Qadhdhafi refused to discuss his comments about joining the Warsaw Pact or a message he recently received from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Libyan Opposition — The leader of the Front for the Salvation of Libya (FNSL) held a news conference in Chad, Ndjamena radio reported. The official stressed there will never be an end to the conflict in Chad as long as Al-Qadhdhafi is not eliminated. According to the radio, he asserted that Libyan prisoners of war in Chad will become the nucleus of an army to "save" Libya from Al-Qadhdhafi, adding that Chadians and Libyans lived in peace until the Libyan leader "usurped power to create a dispute" between them.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Mujahidin Attack in Helmand Province Reported

LD141955 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Extremist opposition elements — those enemies of our people's prosperity and tranquillity — by resorting to a shameful and anti-Islamic act in Helmand Province, have once again showed their hostility toward Islam and the toiling Muslim people of our country.

These criminals, using U.S.-made ground-to-ground missiles, recently attacked the Sarband region, Gereshk District, Helmand Province, injuring a number of our innocent compatriots and damaging a number of houses. During this attack they destroyed the Gholam Mohayoddin communal mosque and burned several volumes of the Holy Koran. The extremists have committed this treacherous and inhuman act at a time when our revolutionary party and state have declared a cease-fire for the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and an immediate end to war and fratricide in the country, and invited all opposition forces to observe the cease-fire and to fulfill their role toward their people and homeland.

Diplomats Say 200 Soldiers Killed by Mujahidin

BK141545 Hong Kong AFP in English
1517 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Islamabad, April 14 (AFP) — Western diplomats here said Tuesday that Afghan guerrillas killed 200 government soldiers in eastern Paktia Province early this month. Soviet reprisals were reported to have intensified rebel activity in several other areas.

Heavy fighting raged in the region bordering Pakistan and at least ten guerrillas were killed and many others wounded, the diplomats said.

They said the guerrillas intensified attacks in several Afghan provinces following Soviet retaliatory bombing of Konduz and Takhar Provinces in the north of the country, from where rebels launched their March 8 attacks into Soviet territory.

The bombardment of villages followed blocking of roads to deny the civilians escape routes, the diplomats added. "Very extensive destruction" was wrought by an estimated 3,000 Soviet soldiers engaged in reprisals, they said, sparking an escalation of rebel activity.

According to the diplomats, the rebels cut a pipeline running fuel from Mazar-e Sharif to the Soviet border areas while clashes also broke out along the northern Salang highway.

Transportation Protocol With USSR Signed

LD142235 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] A bilateral cooperation protocol on transportation affairs between the DRA and the USSR for the year 1366 [the year began 21 Mar 87] was signed in Kabul today.

A correspondent for the *Bakhtar* information agency reported that according to the protocol, the USSR's cooperation with our country's transportation will be expanded further.

In accordance with this protocol, the regulation of the railway line works in Hayratan port, the transportation of grant-in-aid goods, and the transportation of goods from the USSR to the DRA will be studied further.

The protocol states that the necessary number of ships should be (?provided) for the transportation of 200,000 tonnes of goods from the USSR to Hayratan port, for the transportation of 90,000 tonnes of goods to Sherkhan port, and for the transportation of goods [amount not specified] to Termez.

Similarly, according to the protocol, some 2 million tonnes of miscellaneous goods will be transported from the USSR to the border of the DRA in 1366.

The protocol was signed by DRA Minister of Transport Sher Jan Mazduryar, DRA Minister of Commerce Mohammad Khan Jalalar, and RSFSR Minister of Motor Transport Yuriy Sergeyevich Sukhin in the presence of the economic counselor of the Soviet Embassy and of a number of heads of departments from the Ministry of Transportation.

AFP: Government Bans Indian Newspaper
BK110740 Hong Kong AFP in English 0731 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Dhaka, April 11 (AFP) — The Government has banned the entry into Bangladesh of a leading Indian newspaper, THE TELEGRAPH, an official announcement said here.

The announcement Friday gave no reason for the ban, which took effect Thursday, but said it was imposed under a special powers act of 1974.

The ban forbids the importation, publication or production in any form of the paper's contents in Bangladesh.

The newspaper is published in Calcutta in the neighbouring Indian state of West Bengal.

The Bangladesh Government in February banned the Indian weekly SUNDAY, which is also published by THE TELEGRAPH group, for publishing what it said were prejudicial reports.

The fortnightly INDIA TODAY was banned on the same grounds last month.

The banned Indian publications mostly contained articles on the Chakma tribal insurgency in Bangladesh and Chakma refugees who had fled to India, which has strained relations between the two countries, observers said.

Fourth Indian Paper Banned
BK120318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] The Bangladesh Government last night banned the sale and circulation of the Calcutta based Bengali daily *Ananda Bazar Patrika* in the country.

An official press release in Dhaka accused the daily of publishing objectionable news items.

It also prohibited publication of any translation, quotations, and reproduction of any extracts from any news item from the paper.

This is the fourth Indian publication banned by Bangladesh.

The sale and circulation of the English daily *The Telegraph*, Calcutta-based weekly *Sunday*, and the Delhi based fortnightly *India Today* were banned earlier.

Court Stays Execution of Mrs Gandhi's Assassins

BK141303 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The Supreme Court today stayed the execution of all the three accused in the Indira Gandhi assassination case: Satwant Singh, Balbir Singh, and Kehar Singh.

A division bench of the court granted special leave petition against the judgment of the Delhi High Court confirming the death sentence awarded to them by the sessions court. The bench, comprising Mr Justice V. Khalid and Mr Justice G.L. Ozha, directed that the appeal be disposed of expeditiously.

Northeast Separatists Reportedly Form Alliance

BK141632 Hong Kong AFP in English
1620 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 14 (AFP) — Three separatist groups in north-eastern India have joined forces to fight the Indian Government, news reports said Tuesday. Guerrillas of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) of Manipur and the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) are to pool resources to battle New Delhi.

The information was made known to security forces by three insurgents who were arrested recently, reliable reports from the north-east said.

Some half-a-dozen groups are battling for secession in India's rugged and remote north-east, populated mostly by Christians and tribals, the original inhabitants of the sub-continent.

The three arrested guerrillas belonged to the UNLF, which was reportedly set up in November 1984 to "liberate" Manipur from the Indian union, the reports said. The insurgents told their interrogators that the ULFA was to be responsible for finance, the UNLF for propaganda and the NSCN for arms training in the new joint set-up.

The NSCN, the oldest and strongest of all the separatist groups in the area, has its operational headquarters in the neighbouring Burmese jungles and has tried to unite the region's guerrilla groups in the past.

The Assam state government said last month that the "general headquarters" of the ULFA, which has an estimated membership of about 600, was in Burma.

The Indian Government last month expressed concern at the continuing insurgency in the north-east and warned that the NSCN was actively trying to forge a common front of insurgent groups. Several hundreds have died in India's north-east in the last thirty years and deadly attacks are reported on security forces periodically.

The Mizo National Front (MNF), another north-eastern guerrilla outfit which fought a 20-year guerrilla battle for secession, assumed power in Mizoram state two months ago after signing a peace accord with the government and laying down its arms.

Four Killed in Police-Gurkha Clash 13 Apr

BK141604 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] In West Bengal, four persons including a CRPF jawan [Central Reserve Police Force soldier] were killed in a violent incident and subsequent police firing near (Algara) under Kalimpong subdivision in Darjeeling District last night.

According to the police, a speeding truck with armed GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] supporters plowed through the CRPF jawans who had been repairing a vehicle. The jawans opened fire and killed three GNLF supporters on the spot. The GNLF supporters hurled bombs at the CRPF personnel.

Leaders Address Amritsar All-Party Rally

BK141310 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The center has agreed to carry out a fresh review of the cases of the Jodhpur detenues [Sikh political and extremist leaders detained at Jodhpur]. This was stated by the minister for human resources development, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, on behalf of the prime minister at the all-party public rally on Punjab in Amritsar today. He said the review process will begin soon. Mr Narasimha Rao reiterated the commitment of the center to implement the Punjab accord.

In his speech the Punjab chief minister, Mr Barnala, said that the assurance of the center on the Jodhpur detenues has given the state new hope. He said the violence and tyranny let loose by some misguided elements in Punjab is against basic tenets. He alleged that these elements are playing into the hands of foreign powers who are inimical to India.

Cutting across party lines, the leaders who addressed the rally pledged to work for the unity and integrity of the country. They included the agriculture minister, Mr G.S. Dhillon; Mr Sikander Bakht, Bharatiya Janata Party; Mr Harkishan Singh, CPI-M; Mr Avtar Singh Malhotra, CPI; Mr Chitta Basu, Forward Bloc; Mr Virendra Verma, Lok Dal; Mr Samar Brahma Chaudhury, Plains Tribal Council of Assam; Mr Satayanarayanan Reddy, Telugu Desam; Mr (Alaide Aruna), All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazagham; Mr Saiffudin Soz, National Conference; and Mr P. Tidke, Revolutionary Socialist Party.

Former Premier Desai Views Gandhi-Singh Rift

BK09140i Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
23 Mar 87 p 7

[Text] Bombay, March 22

The former prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai feels that the crisis created by the strained relationship between the Prime Minister,

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the President, Mr Zail Singh, could be resolved with the former tendering an apology for his lapses.

In an exclusive interview to a local Gujarati daily, *Janmabhoomi Pravasi*, while [as published] appeared on Sunday, Mr Desai said it would not be proper for the President to send his letter to Parliament. Instead, he should resign which, according to Mr Desai, would compel Mr Gandhi to apologise. When asked what he would have done in Mr Zail Singh's position, Mr Desai replied, "I would have quit."

Mr Desai said Mr Gandhi's reluctance to respect the President was a sign of his "immaturity." During the course of interview, he conceded that his relations with the then president, Mr Sanjiva Reddy, were not good, but said there was no crisis as was seen now.

On the identical rulings given by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, and the Rajya Sabha chairman, Mr R. Venkataraman, "Where is the Constitutional backing for their ruling?" The presiding authorities, according to him, have ruled in favour of the Prime Minister. The Speaker should have cited Constitutional provisions while ruling out any discussion on the issue, he added.

Mr Desai further pointed out that a minister in Mr Gandhi's cabinet, Mr K.K. Tewary, hurled accusations at the President in Parliament about harbouring terrorists in the guest house of Rashtrapati Bhavan which had gone on the record. At that time, Mr Zail Singh should have sought an apology from Mr Tewary if the allegation were baseless or have quit if it were factual, he said.

The Speaker, Mr Desai said, must be impartial while ruling on such issues. The President cannot dismiss the council of ministers and even if he does, Mr Gandhi has the majority to get re-elected, Mr Desai said.

He did not agree with the Janata Party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar's suggestion that Mr Zail Singh should withdraw his letter. Saying that it was Mr Chandra Shekhar's personal opinion and not that of the party, Mr Desai said if the President acted that way, it would show that both the parties were wrong. But that is not the case. Here the Prime Minister has erred, according to him.

PTI adds from New Delhi: Mr Chandra Shekhar on Sunday said his party was in touch with other opposition parties for a consensus on a joint agitation over the President-Prime Minister letter issue.

Mr Chandra Shekhar told pressmen here that no formal decision had been taken and that he had only talked to other opposition leaders. For any stand to be taken, there would have to be a meeting with the opposition parties, he said.

The Janata Party leader said the President-Prime Minister letter issue, on which any further discussion was ruled out in Parliament, was a very serious matter over which his party would agitate at different fora. The matter was so serious that it had to be taken to the people, he added.

Mr Chandra Shekhar said the "Prime Minister had failed to discharge his Constitutional responsibility" of keeping the President informed.

He said the former foreign secretary, Mr Venkateswaran, had revived the old tradition of keeping the President informed about international developments concerning India. This was one of the reasons for Mr Venkateswaran's ouster from the foreign office, the Janata leader alleged.

Referring to the rise in defence expenditure, he said huge amounts of the taxpayers' money could not be spent on modernising the forces for the sake of modernisation.

External Affairs Report for 1986-87 Viewed

BK14;435 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Commentary by political commentator Rai Singh]

[Text] Continuity and change remain the fundamental features of India's foreign policy. Continuity is in respect of principles that govern the policy, and change in postures is in response to the changes in the field of foreign affairs. While continuity provides a link between the past and the present, change reflects the country's readiness to respond to shifts of power centers which interact and react in the realm of international relations. A study of the annual report of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 1986-87 shows how India has managed to have a suitable mix of change and continuity in its relations with other countries and on issues and questions that loom large on the international horizon.

The report points out that several negative developments have marred India's efforts at improving relations with Pakistan. These developments are Pakistan's assistance to Punjab terrorists, its nuclear weapons program and search for AWACS-type facility, raising by it of the Kashmir question at international fora, and its reluctance to forge nondiscriminatory trade relations with India. Needless to say that in this deteriorating security environment, India will take all possible measures to safeguard its territorial integrity. Nonetheless, one gets the impression that while India will continue to safeguard its security interests, especially in the South Asian region, and thus exercise its options of change, it is not prepared to give up the element of continuity in its foreign policy.

Almost an identical approach, but with a little more emphasis on continuity, seems to have been adopted in respect of relations or rather the normalization of relations with China. While noting that efforts to improve relations with China were adversely affected by the Chinese intrusion into the Sumdorong Chu Valley in Arunachal Pradesh last year, the report states that India advocates peaceful consultations with China and desires maintaining peace and tranquillity all along the border.

It also says that China should do nothing to aggravate matters and disturb the status quo. Will China oblige? It is anybody's guess. While the boundary question remained crucial to full normalization of relations, the exchanges with China in com-

merce and culture, science and technology had gradually developed over the year.

As for India's relations with the two superpowers, the External Affairs Ministry's report provides sufficient details to suggest that while efforts are being made to maintain and expand India's traditional ties of friendship and cooperation with the USSR, efforts have also been stepped up to identify and develop areas of cooperation with the U.S.A., especially in the field of science and sophisticated technology — despite some of the snags in the supply of American supercomputers required for data processing of weather and monsoon. Here, too, continuity is emphasized, though change has not been ignored altogether.

India cannot appreciate the U.S. decision to cut aid in protest against India's independent decisions in the UN on various international issues and the U.S. bid to arm Pakistan with sophisticated weapons — especially those which serve as force multipliers against India and despite the Symington amendment which bans arms aid to countries engaged in acquiring nuclear weapons capability. In this context it is difficult to say whether or not India should evolve specific policies in regard to its relationship with the two superpowers and other power centers.

In pursuance of its policy of nonalignment, India has done its bit in pushing ahead with the Africa Fund project of which it is the chairman and has supported measures at the UN and other foralike GATT and UNCTAD to safeguard the economies of thedeveloping countries. Initiatives have also been taken to develop relations with Southeast Asian and Latin American countries.

While India's relations with the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] neighbors are progressing well, the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka remains an irritant. On Sri Lanka, the External Affairs Ministry report said the continuing ethnic crisis remains a source of concern. The situation in the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka has taken a turn for the worse. India's offer of good offices still holds good. It is up to Colombo to make the best use of the offer to resolve its ethnic problem.

The report reiterates India's traditional stand on issues like apartheid in South Africa, Namibia, arms control and disarmament, the Palestine question, the Indian Ocean, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, outer space, and ocean beds. It also reflects India's efforts to broad-base its economic and cultural diplomacy. Of course, the report provides indications of awareness of opportunities in the field of economic diplomacy. It is hoped that India will benefit by the new developments in the field of international trade and commerce. It may be mentioned that mundane matters like trade and commerce, too, serve as useful tools of foreign policy as is evident by the growth by the European Economic Community. Perhaps, in our case greater attention to our economic diplomacy, of course without neglecting other aspects, would yield more fruitful results.

Bomb Explodes in Peshawar; No Casualties Reported

BK140227 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] A bomb exploded on a railway track near the city railway station in Peshawar last night, causing derailment of an empty bogie of a pilot goods train.

No one was hurt, but the blast caused minor damage to the railway track which delayed the departure of the "Khyber Mail" train from Peshawar. The track was immediately repaired and the traffic was restored.

'Extremists' Try To Disrupt Sikh Religious Ceremony

BK141602 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] In Pakistan, a group of five extremists today tried to disturb a religious ceremony by Indian [Sikh] pilgrims at Gurdwara [Sikh temple] Punjab Saheb in Hasan Abdal but were chased away by the pilgrims. The ceremony was part of the Vaisakhi [Sikh festival] for which the pilgrims had gone from India and other countries.

The extremists led by a Canadian Sikh tried to prevent the leader of the pilgrims from presenting a saropa [symbolic sword] to India's Charge d'Affaires Mr Anil Patwardhan.

The Pakistani security authorities took no action to prevent the incident though they had been forewarned by the Indian Embassy about potential troublemakers.

Sikh Delegation Meets President

BK141633 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The visiting delegation of Sikh yatris [pilgrims] led by Mr Tirlochan Singh called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this afternoon. The delegation expressed satisfaction over the maintenance of their sacred places in Pakistan and appreciated the arrangements made by the Pakistan Government to facilitate their visit. Federal Minister for Religious and Minorities Affairs Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan was also present.

Speaking at the conclusion of the 3-day Vaisakhi festival at Gurdwara Panja Saheb in Hasan Abdal today, the federal minister for religious and minorities affairs said that Pakistan Government considers it obligatory to extend all possible facilities to the visiting yatris. The leader of the Indian Sikh yatris, Sardar Tirlochan Singh, who is also a member of the Indian Parliament, thanked the Pakistan Government for the facilities extended to the Sikh yatris.

Prime Minister Returns from UK, Belgium 15 Apr

BK150618 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo returned to Islamabad this morning after his successful visit to Britain and Belgium. He was received, among others, by National Assembly Speaker Hamid Nasir Chatha, federal ministers, ministers of state, members of Parliament, diplomats, honorable citizens of the city, and senior civil and military officials.

President Khamene'i Addresses Qom Gathering 13 Apr

NC140702 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that as celebrations are being held throughout the country on the occasion of mid-Sha'ban, the auspicious birthday of the sole savior of mankind, the imam of the ages — may God expedite his noble return — President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i attended a massive and important gathering at the Chahar Mardan Mosque in Qom last night. In an address, he spoke about the doctrinal foundations of anticipation and the philosophy of guidance, and examined the Islamic Republic's policies in continuing the imposed war.

The president said the following to the spectacular gathering: Belief in the imam of the ages and faith in the fact that a powerful divine hand will someday elevate this world, now mired in corruption, to the peak of human exaltation, stamping out arrogance and oppression in the world, have an outstanding impact on the lives of the pious. The president added: During the oppression that characterized the shah's despotism, this faith dictated struggle against that regime. Today it dictates struggle against the enemies of Islam and the minions of world arrogance, which seek to strike at this revolution.

The president referred to the oppression imposed by despotic rulers on the deprived and oppressed, saying: Powerful regimes have chained man, donning masks of humanity and love of freedom to hide their sinfulness and ugly faces, while millions of people throughout the world remain the captives of oppression, discrimination, poverty and disease. Arrogant powers spend millions and millions of dollars on weapons each year.

Mr Khamene'i added: Once life lacks the hope of an auspicious future, one is plunged into darkness; hence our expectation of a bright future for the world's Muslims and deprived. Anticipation is a major element that keeps the flame of man's hopes constantly burning.

The president continued by referring to the circumstances that will herald the return of the promised Al-Mahdi, saying: The existence of a combatant and pious Muslim nation will certainly assist in bringing the return of the imam of the ages closer, and the resisting, steadfast Iranian nation has shown that it is quite capable of bearing the heavy burden of this ordained trust.

Mr Khamene'i then assessed the various plots hatched by domestic and foreign enemies to defeat the revolution, saying: Fearing the spread and infiltration of the Islamic revolution among the world's Muslims, world arrogance is trying to discredit and distort this system. With the help of its mercenary pencil pushers and court clergymen, it alleges the system in the Islamic Republic does not conform to genuine Islam. In truth, the Islamic Republic's system is the most popular form of government and the nearest approach to Islamic rule. When the Islamic Republic's system wins in various arenas, an oppressed nation gains hope in struggle. Of course, world arrogance will try to turn this hope into dismay. The defense of this revolution acquires greater significance as a result.

Referring to the unstinting arms support given the Iraqi regime, the Supreme Defense Council chairman said: The world has now realized that the Islamic Republic cannot be defeated in the military arena. Therefore, it hopes to use the weapon of war to impose a political defeat. Were we to agree to negotiations, this political defeat, which is exactly what world arrogance wants, would occur. But our brave resisting nation is not prepared to accept such a defeat, and our policy in continuing our holy defense is predicated upon this principle. Our victory in the war will actually be a defeat of the hegemony of arrogance.

In conclusion, the Supreme Defense Council chairman referred to the extensive dispatch of the Imam of the Ages Corps, calling on the brave nation and on our heroic youth to join this corps, thus paving the way for victory in this fateful battle.

It should be noted that after his arrival in Qom yesterday afternoon, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i went to the cemetery of martyrs to pray for the deliverance of the souls of the martyrs of the revolution and of the imposed war. Our correspondent reports that the president was warmly welcomed by the great number of Muslims who had gathered at the cemetery, chanting "Peace be upon Muhammad and his scion."

Reportage on Visit of Bulgarian Trade Minister

Arrives 12 Apr

LD121755 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA -- A high-ranking Bulgarian delegation led by Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov arrived here Sunday at the invitation of Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali.

During the four-day visit the economic-industrial delegation which also includes Bulgarian minister of transport and (?agriculture) machine-building, Toncho Chakurov, will attend Tehran-Sofia joint economic commission meet to discuss mutual cooperation in agriculture, trade and industrial fields.

In an interview upon his arrival here Khristov said that Iran-Bulgaria relations are flourishing and expressed hope that they would further expand. Bulgaria is collaborating with Iran in crane and machine-building, and lathing, Khristov said. Technical knowhow on dam construction and irrigation networks is being exchanged between the two countries, he added.

Khristov disclosed that his country has taken due measures to purchase non-oil goods from Iran, adding that traditional goods as well as buses, mini buses and cars have already been imported from Iran. Bulgaria exports meat, dairy products, metallic goods foodstuff to Iran, Khristov said.

Zali interviewed by IRNA on the same day said that according to an agreement Iran and Bulgaria hold the joint economic commission meet annually on a rotating basis to discuss economic, commercial, industrial and technical cooperation. The two countries are to sign a letter of understanding, Zali said.

The agriculture minister expressed hope that the volume of Tehran-Sofia trade exchange for the current year would reach the target of 300 million dollars like last year.

First Round of Talks

LD131052 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA — The visiting Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov expressed hope here Sunday that trade volume between his country and Iran would increase to 500 million dollars from the previous 300 million.

The first round of talks between Iran's agriculture minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, Khristov and Bulgarian Minister of Machine Building Toncho Chakurov, started here, Sunday afternoon.

During the talks the two sides pointed to new grounds for further expansion of bilateral cooperation and Khristov agreed that 20 percent of Iran's exports to Bulgaria be non-oil products.

Zali, stressing on the importance Iran attached to the export of its non-oil products, said that due to the willingness of the two countries to expand bilateral ties, trade exchange between the countries was expected to further expand this year. He expressed hope that at the conclusion of talks a letter of understanding would be signed between the two sides in industrial and commercial fields.

Iran and Bulgaria also agreed to open new avenues of cooperation in oil, petrochemical, transportation, construction, irrigation, agricultural, computer, financial and banking fields. Iran also agreed to study the import of cheese, meat, cigarettes, iron, cranes and other required items from Bulgaria while the latter announced its readiness to buy oil, mini-buses, cars, tractor chassis, concentrated copper, zinc, lead, textiles and agricultural products from Iran.

The two sides decided to take part in Tehran-Sofia international trade fairs at an expanded level and, if necessary, set up private exhibitions in each other's capitals.

Khristov, leading a high-ranking delegation, arrived here Sunday for a four-day official visit at the invitation of Agriculture Minister Zali.

Meets With Commerce Minister

LD131747 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA — Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov currently here at the head of a high-ranking delegation to participate in the Tehran-Sofia joint economic commission meet, conferred with Iranian Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari Monday.

Khristov expressing satisfaction over the trend of the two countries' ties said that prospects are bright for further strengthening and expanding of mutual relations. He added that Bulgaria is keen to purchase Iran's non-oil goods.

Ja'fari said in response no obstacles exist in the way of expansion of the two countries mutual ties and that certain Iranian heavy industrial products have a relatively good market. Abedi-Ja'fari said that Iran is prepared to export some of its light industrial products, as well as agricultural and mineral produce to Bulgaria.

Holds Talks With Mines Minister

LD132237 Tehran IRNA in English 2103 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Tehran, April 13, IRNA — Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov met and talked with Iranian Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi, here Monday. The two sides stressed on the implementation of the letter of understanding signed earlier in March between Iranian Ministry of Mines and Metals and the Bulgarian Ministry of Metallurgy.

The two ministers also discussed the continuation of concentrated zinc and lead exports from Iran in exchange for the import of steel bullion from Bulgaria, as well as technical know-how between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Delegation Visits Car Plant

LD121324 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Tehran, April 12, IRNA — The visiting Bulgarian economic delegation headed by deputy chairman of Bulgaria's Economic Committee, Ivan Stamenov, visited 'Iran Khodrou' car manufacturing company, here Sunday. The delegation visited various parts of the company including sections where mini-buses, cars and buses are manufactured. The Bulgarian guests later held talks with the board of directors of the company in which further expansion of bilateral economic ties was discussed.

Iran exported 45 mini-buses to Bulgaria last year and talks are underway for the export of 50 more. In return, 'Iran Khodrou' will import automatic industrial machinery from Bulgaria. [passage omitted]

Confers With Oil Minister

LD131748 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA — Visiting Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov conferred with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Monday on Tehran-Sofia economic and oil relations.

During the meeting, Khristov, noting that oil is his country's chief import from Iran, expressed hope that Tehran and Sofia would cooperate in the field of oil and petrochemical products exchanges.

The oil minister said in reply that both Iran and Bulgaria should spare no efforts to expand their economic and political relations. Aqazadeh expressed hope that an Iranian team of experts would pay a visit to Sofia within the next few days to inspect Bulgaria's oil facilities.

At the end of the meeting, Khristov extended his country's invitation to Iranian oil minister to pay an official visit to Sofia which was accepted by him. The oil minister agreed to visit Bulgaria at an appropriate time in the future.

Ambassador to Moscow Views Ties With USSR

PM140711 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Apr 87 p 14

[Unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent's exclusive interview with Iranian ambassador to the Sovet Union Naser Nobari-Heyrani; date, place not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] On what principles are relations between Iran and the Soviet Union based?

[Nobari-Heyrani] There are special elements that effectively organze our relations with the Soviet Union. First of all, the Soviets are our biggest neighbors, with a total of 2,500 km in land and sea frontiers between the two countries. The special issues and sensitivities that govern neighborly relations also apply to the Soviet Union and Iran. The main principle on which we base our relations with the Soviets is equality and noninterference in one another's affairs.

[Correspondent] What has been the trend in bilateral relations since the Islamic revolution?

[Nobari-Heyrani] Relations between Iran and the USSR have gone through special changes since the Islamic revolution in Iran. During this time relations, both economic and political, have gone through some ups and downs. One of the reasons for theis situation has been the Soviets' lack of adequate understanding of our newborn revolution. Of course, we must note that despite these ups and downs in bilateral relations during this time, relations mostly show an upward swing. I think this is an indication of neighborly principles and more mutual understanding.

[Correspondent] What were the effects of the Iranian foreign minister's trip to Moscow as far as relations were concerned?

[Nobari-Heyrani] In reality, the foreign minister's trip to Moscow was the turning point in relations between the two neighborly countries with regard to these relations' growth. This was the first official visit by the Iranian foreign minister to Moscow and moreover, it was the first trip to the Soviet Union by an Iranian foreign minister in 50 years. This trip marks the beginning of a new chapter in relations between Iran and the Soviet Union. During these meetings the two sides met and talked in great detail about issues of mutual interest and about their respective viewpoints. They tried to find common ground in order to secure and complete future negotiations.

[Correspondent] In the recent economic protocol signed between Iran and the Soviet Union, what are the guarantees for full implementation?

[Nobari-Heyrani] If we want to give an exact and definite answer to this question, we can say that in reality there is no 100 percent guarantee for any protocol in the world. But the protocol that was signed included the average guarantees that any protocol would need. This protocol was signed officially between the two governments, and during Dr Velayati's trip these agreements were once again confirmed by Soviet officials.

Some of these agreements are actually being implemented right now. For example, Soviet technicians had all left Iran in recent years, but in line with this protocol they will return in accordance with Iran's defined needs. Some of them have already come back and are busy.

The importance of the protocol signed recently between the two nations is that it includes all the issues and problems created because of stoppages and slowdowns in recent years. They were all discussed in great detail and for the most part the main issues were solved. There were even some decisions made with regard to clearing up financial loans between the two countries. During the trip that Mr (Katachov) made to Iran, [agreements on] all these issues were signed by representatives of the two countries.

[Correspondent] Was there any discussion about the resumption of natural gas exports and related issues during Mr Velayati's trip to Moscow?

[Nobari-Heyrani] The question of natural gas exports was brought up in a preliminary manner during the trip that [oil minister] Mr Aqazadeh made to Moscow. During later trips officials from the two governments confirmed the agreements already reached. The two sides have agreed on basic principles relating to the sale of natural gas with regard to accepting international principles and the manner of the purchase. At present experts from both sides are examining the technical issues involved in impelementing the plans.

[Correspondent] What are the main political issues in bilateral relations right now?

[Nobari-Heyrani] There are two main issues that exist in the talks between Iran and the Soviet Union: One is Afghanistan, and the other is the question of the war.

[Correspondent] It seems that some changes are about to be made with regard to the Afghan issue, especially as far as Soviet and Iranian policies are concerned. What is your view on this subject?

[Nobari-Heyrani] At present the Soviets are admitting in one way or another that sending their troops into Afghanistan was a mistake. They have reached the conclusion that the occupation of Afghan soil has not only failed to produce the results they had in mind but has also gradually lessened their influence on Afghan society.

The occupation of Afghanistan has deadlocked their policies in Muslim countries and in practice has given U.S. imperialism an excuse to increase its influence in the region. Therefore, it is not clear to Soviet citizens why the Soviet Army is engaged on the Afghan front. What is interesting is the Soviets openly admit the Americans are eager to do something to keep the Soviets in Afghanistan longer.

In reality, the Americans want to make an issue of Afghanistan. With these points in mind, Soviet officials have recently made

some moves indicating they are willing to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan as soon as possible. So, if there is movement, it is in Soviet policy toward Afghanistan and the willingness they are showing for withdrawal.

From the beginning Iran has always stressed the necessity for a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. In the first hours of the Soviet troops' entry into Afghanistan the imam told the then Soviet ambassador to Iran that this Soviet move was a mistake. He told the ambassador that his country would achieve nothing by this move. So, if the Soviets have discovered their mistake and if they really want to leave Afghanistan, this naturally accords with our position, and we welcome it. Our new plans are also a result of these new developments on the Afghan issue.

[Correspondent] What is the Soviet position with regard to the imposed war? What were the recent discussions in connection with the imposed war?

[Nobari-Heyrani] The official and open policy of the Soviet Union with regard to the war is they want to see it end and they want the two sides to start negotiating. In the recent talks our position was of course laid out in detail for Soviet officials. We told them: Just as you crushed the aggressor Hitler, we have the right to crush and punish the aggressor Saddam. Of course, they had no strong counter argument. A statement Soviet leaders issued 2 months ago about the war stressed that in order to end the war one of the sides has to step down and forget the past, to look toward the future. It is clear that this statement is illogical and unacceptable.

It is even a viewpoint the Soviets do not accept in practice. Can the Soviets forget the past, forgive Hitler's crimes after 40 years, and bring back their soldiers from Germany? We do not insist that our soldiers remain in Baghdad in order to punish Saddam. We are willing to punish Saddam with blows delivered against the Iraqi army without reaching Baghdad. Therefore, our demand is legitimate, and no logic in the world can stand against it. Keeping in mind the strong logic of the Islamic Republic and the power that the Islamic warriors are creating on the war fronts, there is hope the world will gradually be forced to accept our logic. Signs of this became more apparent following the victory at Al-Faw and especially after the "Karbala'-5" operations.

[Correspondent] How do you view the Soviet leadership's recent policies with regard to democratization, and economic, social, and political changes in the Soviet Union?

[Nobari-Heyrani] It seems that the new Soviet leader has a more pragmatic approach than his predecessors. He does not think of himself as one bound by and forced to follow traditional and classical socialist principles. Many of the developments launched by the new Soviet leadership do not match traditional socialist principles. Perhaps as far as classic socialism is concerned, this is a reactionary and deviationist movement.

The new Soviet leaders do not think it wrong to openly criticize their predecessors' economic and social policies. They see those previous methods as factors encouraging corruption and sluggishness in the economy and in the overall social affairs of the country. At present, the Soviet leaders feel that if they continue to rely on the old, traditional, socialistic methods, they will not be able to compete with the West, especially as the West is quick in making industrial and economic advances. They feel they would reach a practical deadlock.

In reality, the true aim of the United States in promoting SDI is not so much a military or tactical one, but is rather aimed at bringing economic pressure on the Soviets. Because in any case the Soviets may be able to compete technically, with some delays, but their real problem lies in their inability to pay for the huge expense involved.

This is why the Soviets are actively seeking to shake up their economic system and why they want to make some changes in this area. Their general outlook is that, regarding the governing system and little individual incentive, they are stressing individual incentives more. For example, they want to create a private sector in a limited sense. In factories they have given considerable power to managers in selling products. This way the factory manager has more incentive because he can achieve more financial gain. These changes can also be seen in the internal social and political fields. They now consider it acceptable to have several candidates. Recently, Mr Gorbachev said the people need democracy like they need air. At present in the Soviet Union there is less talk of a government modeled on Lenin, and the emphasis is rather on Lenin's revolution. At one meeting one high-ranking Soviet official said: In the nuclear age we pay more attention to peace than to the necessity for class struggle. This sentence indicates the pragmatic view of the new Soviet leaders in comparison with the ideological tendencies of their predecessors.

[Correspondent] How do you view the Western, especially the U.S., role in Iran's relations with the Soviet Union? For example, what kind of reaction did McFarlane's trip provoke in the Soviet Union? What effects did it have on bilateral relations?

[Nobari-Heyrani] Clearly, one of the main U.S. Middle East policies is to prevent good-neighborly relations between Iran and the Soviet Union. Its aim is to see turbulent relations between the Soviets and Iran. It does not want to see an independent Iran having good-neighborly relations with its northern neighbor, because the only logic for a resumption of its presence in Iran is a Soviet threat.

So the more turbulent relations between Iran and the Soviet Union become, the better the excuse for a U.S. presence in Iran. When McFarlane came to Iran the most important point he stressed was the presence of Soviet troops on Iran's northern frontiers. Of course, it is necessary for the Soviets to show more awareness and pay more attention to the long-term U.S. aims. It is our view that it would be far better for both neighbors to have good bilateral relations, full of trust and devoid of false tensions.

The considerable growth in the trend toward the expansion of bilateral relations runs into sensitivity in the West. The West has also recently launched some curious efforts. For example, they have tried to think up a false scenario of tensions between Iranian and Soviet diplomatic circles. In order to confuse public opinion they started these widespread rumors, and this is happening while

the atmosphere and all the contacts and talks in Tehran and Moscow have been good and positive.

The exposure of the McFarlane trip to Tehran was shocking for the Soviets. The imam predicted that the Kremlin would be shaken, and it was. The Americans had put pressure on all countries not to sell arms to Iran. They wanted to reduce Iran to a desperate situation and be forced to establish ties with the United States. In the meetings I had with Soviet officials they said that, at the exact time when the Americans were negotiating with the Soviets, stressing the necessity of sanctions against Iran, they themselves were secretly sending arms to Iran. They said clearly the Americans had been playing games with them. For me it was interesting to note what the imam said earlier: "The Americans even play games with the Soviets." We heard exactly the same thing from Soviet officials.

The Americans have again started some movement in implementing this policy. Recently, Schultz went to China and Armacost to Moscow, where they had lengthy talks. Schultz will also be visiting Moscow soon. The future will show whether history will repeat itself or not.

Tehran Views Upcoming Palestinian Conference

LD131719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1055 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Unattributed political commentary entitled "The Gathering of Several Palestinian Groups in Algeria"]

[Excerpts] Today a meeting is taking place in the Algerian capital among several Palestinian groups, independent personalities, and syndicates in order to pave the way for staging a session of the PNC on 20 April. [passage omitted]

In the past few days, some sensitive meetings have been taking place among 'Arafat, Habash, and Hawatimah after almost 2 years of differences. During the last 12 months and parallel to the worsening relations between 'Arafat and King Husayn, Chadli Bendjedid renewed efforts toward what has been termed the return of unity among the Palestinian ranks. It was clear the policies of the Algerian Government in this connection fully benefitted from Moscow's backing as the USSR had exerted substantial pressure on Libya and Syria on this score. Nevertheless, it is evident that supporting 'Arafat, not as a personality but in terms of a political move, is one of the points of difference between Syria and the Soviet Union in the context of Moscow's Middle Eastern policies. The latest trips taken by Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], 'Arafat's deputy and one of the top PLO personalities, to Western [words indistinct], and his meeting with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, showed that after the war of the camps in Lebanon, the Libyan Government has stopped supporting Syria in this connection. In any case, several problems exist on the path to convening the future session of the PNC and it appears that in today's meeting and in the meetings of the coming days efforts will be made to somehow reach agreements on these issues.

Just as 'Arafat himself has stated, one of the main problems will be to secure a final and clear stance regarding the question of peace in the Middle East. These days, the trips taken by King Husayn to Europe, the comments made by Shim'on Peres, and finally, the Soviet Union's new policies in the Middle East have gained in importance. Toward this end, today's meeting will involve discussions about the Amman accord, signed 2 years ago between 'Arafat and King Husayn. The PFLP has made the annulment of this accord a condition for its participation in the PNC meeting.

At the same time, some discussions will be conducted on the friendly relations between 'Arafat and the Camp David regime of Egypt. A point worthy of attention is that 'Arafat is under pressure from governments such as Egypt to prevent the annulment of the Amman accord. In this connection, 'Arafat has stressed that Egypt is the backbone of the Arab world and no peace or war has any meaning without Egypt. In connection with the potential annulment of the Amman accord, he has adopted an ambiguous stance stating only that Palestinian leaders must adopt the same stance on this issue.

Among other issues to be discussed in today's meeting among the nine Palestinian groups in Algeria is the question of introducing some reform in the (?structure) of the PLO bureau. [passage omitted]

Amid all this, the Syrian Government, through its official organ, the newspaper *Tishrin*, has remarked that 'Arafat is in the process of making concessions to the enemy regarding the destiny-making problems of Palestine. If the PNC sessions were to be convened in this vein in order to secure unity and solidarity, all these back-trackings would have to be endorsed by him.

At the same time, the Palestinain Al-Sa'iqah group, the PFLP (?commanded) by Ahmad Jibril, and 'Arafat's opponents in the Fatah organization, led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], have boycotted today's meeting and the future session of the PNC. Through this they have also displayed the stance taken by the Syrian Government. One can say that finally, were all the problems and difficulties to be somehow solved and were the future session of the PNC to be convened, this would be tantamount to a renewed emphasis on the policies of Yasir 'Arafat. The only difference would be that his new policies take on a little different appearance from his past policies.

Battalions From Lorestan, Kordestan Leave for Fronts

NC150743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpts] As the dispatch of the Imam of the Ages Corps to the fronts continues, seven battalions of popular forces left from the Lorestan and Kordestan Provinces for the fronts yesterday. We invite you to listen to reports on these dispatches:

[Begin recording] On the occasion of the birthday of the great leader of Islam, the hidden Al-Mahdi, four battalions of trained and specialized forces from Lorestan Province left for the fronts. [passage omitted] This is the Central News Unit correspondent in Khorramabad. [end recording]

[Begin recording] As units from the Imam of the Ages Corps are being sent to the fronts from all over the country, three battalions

of volunteer popular forces from Kordestan Province were seen off warmly by the committed and revolutionary people of Sanandaj as they left for the war against blasphemy and world arrogance, thereby renewing their vow to the dear imam and to the heroic and Muslim people of Iran to continue the war until final victory. They bespeak the resistance and steadfastness of the heroic people in this part of our Islamic homeland. [passage omitted] This is the Central News Unit correspondent in Sanandaj. [end recording]

Three Battalions From Hamadan Depart for Fronts

NC150641 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] On the auspicious birthday of the sole savior of mankind, the imam of the ages — may God hasten his noble return — three battalions from Hamadan Province, consisting of Basij members and of trained and veteran forces from the cities of Hamadan, Malayer, Nahavand, Tuyserkan, and districts and villages of the province, left for the fronts of good against evil as part of the Imam of the Ages Corps.

Battalion Departs From Jahrom for Fronts

NC150654 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Recorded report from Jahrom]

[Excerpt] On the auspicious birthday of the savior of mankind, the imam of the ages -- may God hasten his noble return -- and as part of the vast dispatch of volunteer popular forces for the fronts, members of the Imam of Ages A.S. Corps comprising a battalion of Basij members and of veteran, technical, and specialized forces left for the fronts from Jahrom, (Khadr), Kordian, and (Bimakan) to fight the infidels. [passage omitted]

Communique No 2,806 Details Recent Operations

LD141751 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA — Iranian Navy intercepted four foreign commercial ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Monday, but allowed them to continue voyage since no suspicious cargo was found on board.

Announcing the above, Joint Staff Communique No. 2806 added here Tuesday that Iranian Muslim combatants destroyed an Iraqi tank, a heavy mortar launcher as well as several bunkers and watchposts in a western front, inflicting some casualties and losses on the enemy.

In Naft-e Shah, Qasr-e Shirin and Kani-Sheykh operational regions five Iraqi vehicle and tank columns came under heavy artillery fire of the Muslim forces and their movements were disrupted, said the communique.

Iranian combatants consolidated their defensive positions in sensitive operational regions of northwestern fronts, depriving the enemy from embarking on any action in Sardasht and Panjwin theaters.

In southern fronts, the communique said Iranian forces despatched patrols, particularly to Yebis and Hoseyniyeh, and silenced enemy tank fire, inflicting casualties and losses on Iraqi troops.

Artillery fire of Iranian gendarmerie forces on Iraqi positions and strongholds destroyed a heavy machine-gun and five individual and group bunkers, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers, the communique said.

Tehran Announces 'Fath-5' Guerrilla Offensive

LD150939 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0916 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention!

According to a report received from Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the valiant combatants of Islam and the Peshmerga of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan have begun the "Fath-5" guerrilla offensive codenamed "The Lord of the Era." Details of their operations will be brought to the attention of the heroic Iranian ummah in due course.

Iraqi Bases 'Destroyed'

LD150954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0944 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to a report from Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, during the heroic onslaught of the combatants of Islam in Al-Sulaymaniyah region in Iraq, enemy bases in Panjah 'Ali sector and on (?Azmer) heights were destroyed.

Operations 'Deep Inside Iraq'

LD151023 Tehran IRNA in English 0953 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, April 16 [date as received] IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran conducted guerrilla operations early Tuesday morning on Al-Sulaymaniyah, Chuwartah and Mawat axes deep inside Iraq, destroying positions and headquarters of the Iraqi forces on several heights.

The operations, Fath-5 launched on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Imam Mahdi (A.S.) is code named 'Ya Sha'b Al Zaman Adrekni' and was launched by the forces under the command of the Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and Peshmarga of the patriotic union of Kurdistan.

In their fresh operations the Muslim combatants of Iran pounded Iraqi positions on heights no. 1400, 1473, 2176, 1955, and 1925

of Shaykh Gojarou mountain range and also heights no. 1419 and 1508 of Olagh-Lu heights. [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1007 GMT on 15 April, in an unscheduled announcement, says: The mighty forces of Islam, comprising Guards Corps ground forces, and the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, have staged operation Fath-5 and have totally destroyed the headquarters of the 39th Division of the I Corps of Iraq. They also destroyed enemy bases on 1400, 1473, 1276 [as heard], 1955 and 1925 heights, and killed or injured a large number of Ba'thist forces stationed on those heights].

Iraqi Casualties Detailed

LD151111 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA — More than 400 Iraqi military personnel were killed, wounded or captured by Muslim combatants during the Fath-5 operations started Tuesday morning.

Several Iraqi bases and headquarters along Al-Sulaymaniyah, Chuwartah and Mawat in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah Province were demolished by Muslim combatants, reported Khatem ol-Anbiya' military headquarters. Among these bases are the 39th Army Division of the first corps around Surah Qal'at township and others in Panjah 'Ali region and Azmar Dagh heights.

The television mast of Al-Sulaymaniyah was also demolished by the heavy fire of Muslim forces.

A number of Iraqi forces taken by suprise in the lightning operations of Muslim combatants surrendered.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 10034 GMT on 15 April adds the following: "Over 50 Iraqi captives taken during the Fath-5 operations launched early Tuesday in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah Province, were transferred behind the fronts as of Tuesday morning."]